

May 10, 1983

LB 219

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you. I guess I am going to support Senator Beutler's amendment and perhaps put up an amendment of my own. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I guess I, too, would support the Beutler amendment and I felt that the discussion we have had thus far has been illuminating. Senator Fowler has explained very well the retirement system. The one concern I have is in relation to previous legislation we considered on the floor, LB 134, which would have provided for health insurance coverage for early retirees on the state employees. It seems to me that on its own perhaps LB 219 and the early retirement figure of lowering it from sixty to fifty-five is probably not significant just as LB 134 in lowering the ability in the age at which you can get health insurance coverage after retiring also wasn't significant but combined and Senator Johnson talks about social security, you start to get a net effect that multiplies out. So before we move too hastily in early retirement and the benefits that accrue with that, I think we have to be very careful about what does that mean in other areas. I guess I am hesitant at this time to support the decrease from sixty to fifty-five, but I think ultimately we will have to review this very carefully and perhaps further action at a later date would be in order but I would be hesitant at this time to take that step and so I support the Beutler amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Beutler amendment but I want to say that I do appreciate Senator Beutler's concern and I think that Senator Beutler's concern is one that legitimately ought to be considered by this Legislature, not only now but in the future. I do feel, however, that a couple of things need to be corrected and dealt with and one of them is Senator Johnson's remarks about his concerns on the social security system. Most state employees across the country are enrolled in the social security system and are part of that system from the beginning of their employment with the State of Nebraska. As we know, there are some states that have opted out and that has been an option that the federal government has allowed in the past. However, from this point forward with the new social security laws, we will no longer find that states will have the option of opting out of the social security systems. We will also realize that there will be new employees with the federal